

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 15 and 16 are amended. Claim 17 is added. Therefore, claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Leeper (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0195935, hereinafter "Leeper").

The present disclosure relates to a data communication device capable of facilitating file management. In one exemplary embodiment, when a user wants to send an e-mail message including an image object F1 as an attachment to a reception terminal, a composite file F2 is generated by adding the e-mail transmission information, such as the sender's address and the recipient's address, to the image object F1. Instead of sending the message with the image object F1 as an attachment to the reception terminal, the message is sent with the composite file F2 to the reception terminal. An example of the composite file F2 is found in FIG. 6, in which a document includes an image object and a text that represents transmission information. According to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure, the image object F1 is searchable by transmission information, for example, the sender's address, even if the image object F1 is stored separately from the message.

The features of the disclosure are broadly encompassed by claim 1, which is amended to recite

- a transmission information setting portion for setting transmission information necessary for sending the object in a message to a recipient;
- a file generation portion for generating a composite file by adding the transmission information to the object;
- and
- a transmission portion for sending the generated composite file in the message to the recipient.

Applicant respectfully submits that these features are not taught or suggested in Leeper.

Leeper relates to securing an electronic document by attaching a biometric characteristic. The system secures e-mail communications by attaching an individual's biometric characteristic, such as fingerprint, and iris characteristics, to a message that is to be sent. Referring to FIG. 2, the biometric characteristic is attached to a sender's message. Then, the entire package of the sender's address, the biometric characteristic, and sender's message are encrypted. When the message is received at the recipient's terminal, it is decrypted partially to expose the sender's address and the biometric characteristic. If the sender's address and the biometric characteristic are verified, the message is decrypted entirely to expose the message.

In Leeper, the sender's address is encrypted with the sender's message as a package, which is sent to the recipient. The sender's address is not added to an object of the sender's message. In Leeper, an attachment object, such as an image file attachment, in the sender's message, is not associated with the sender's message when the image file attachment is downloaded, and stored separately from the message. Therefore, an object in Leeper is not searchable if stored separately

from the e-mail message. In contrast, claim 1 describes a file generation portion for generating a composite file by adding the transmission information to an object included in a message.

At least for the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable. Claims 5 and 6 are patentable at least because of their dependency. Claim 7, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are patentable for reasons analogous to these of claim 1 because they include features similar to these of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges gratefully that claims 12 and 14 are allowed.

Claims 2-4 and 8-9 are objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 2-4 and 8-9 have been rewritten into independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-4 and 8-9 have been amended in editorial nature, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claim

Claim 17 is added to further describe the features of the disclosure. Claim 17 is patentable at least because of its dependency.

CONCLUSION


From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of present application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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